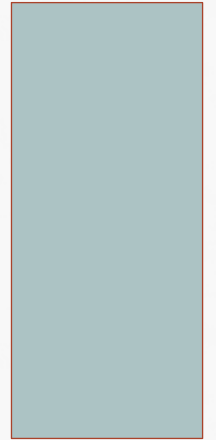


COMMON BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN RESCUE DOGS

AMANDA E. FLORSHEIM, DVM



WHY DOGS ARE RELINQUISHED TO SHELTERS OR RESCUE



- Human-related reasons
- Canine-related reasons

DOG-RELATED REASONS PEOPLE GIVE UP THEIR DOGS

- 45% - Hyperactive
- 41% - Barking
- 24% - Chewing
- 21% - Inappropriate elimination



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UNRULY BEHAVIOR

- Not truly hyperactive
- Underexercized
- Understimulated



EXERCISE

- 20 – 30 minutes of aerobic activity daily



CONTROL DEVICES

- **Harness**
- **Head Halter**
- **Collar**
- **Drag line**



ENRICHMENT DEVICES



TRAINING

- “Positive” versus “traditional”
- Operant v. Reflexive
- Reward-based
 - Clicker?



GOALS OF TRAINING

- Increase focus and emotional control
- Relaxation
- Basic commands



FOCUS / CONTROL

- **Deference /
NILF**

- Four feet on the floor
- Eye contact
- Personal space

RELAXATION

- Place condition
- Focus on rewarding relaxed behavior (not just performing a command)
- Operant AND reflexive conditioning



RELAXATION



BASIC COMMANDS

- Name orientation
- Sit
- Down
- Off
- Leave it
- Give



REWARD

- How to
- When to
- How much
- What to use



REWARD

- How to
- When to
- How much
- What to use



HYPERKINESIS

- Rare
- Physiologic disorder
- Most likely a dysfunction of the dopamine system
- Medication trial
 - Methylphenidate

QUESTIONS?



INAPPROPRIATE ELIMINATION

- Determine who is urinating and / or defecating in the house
- Training
 - Have way for dog to tell you they need to go outside
 - Do not allow access to urinate or defecate in the house
 - Reward for urinating and defecating on substrate you want them to use (like grass)
- Rule out possible underlying medical problems

DETERMINE THE CULPRIT



- Make sure you know which dog is having the problem (if not more than one)
- “Guilty” looks
- Separate dogs
- For feces, try non-toxic crayons

TRAINING A DOG TO USE A BELL

Basic Targeting

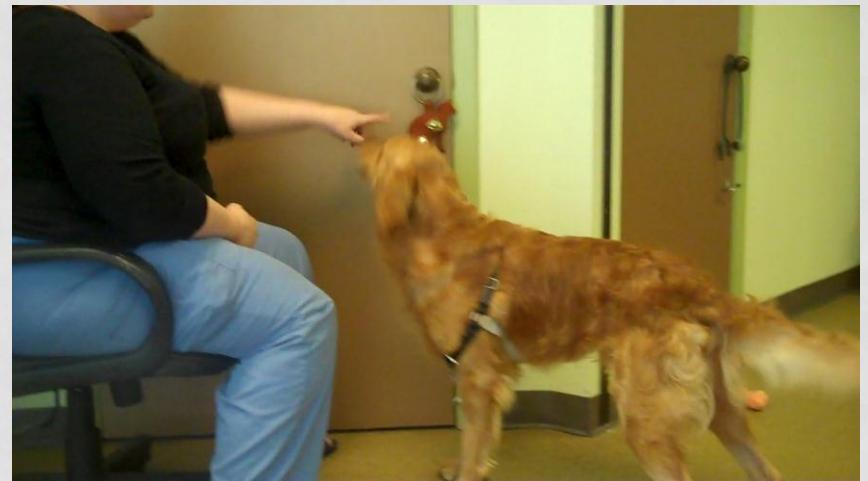


Targeting a Bell

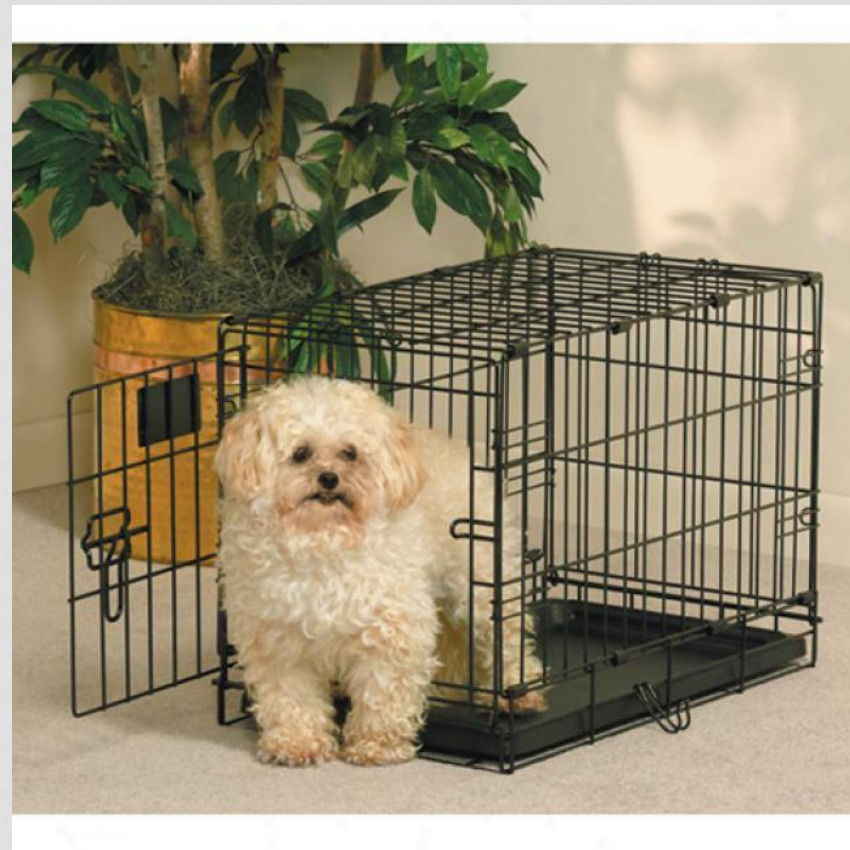


TRAINING A DOG TO USE A BELL

- Move closer and closer to door
- Nose level
- Reward initially near bell to encourage high level of behaviors offered and reinforcements



PREVENT ACCESS INSIDE



REWARD OUTSIDE

- Reward as close to finishing as possible
- Go out in yard
- Do not reward at door or when back inside
- If dog likes outside, do not take back in immediately after



DOGS THAT URINATE OR DEFECATE IN A CRATE

- **Did not develop or their natural aversion to urinating /defecating in space they are confined in was overridden by early environment**
- **Puppy mill, pet store or poor early care**
- **Rule out medical problem first!**

OPTIONS



MEDICAL PROBLEMS THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE

- **Bladder infection**
- **Urolith**
- **Ectopic ureter**
- **Hormone-responsive urinary incontinence**
- **Endocrine disorders**

INFECTION



- Sterile urine sample
- Urinalysis with sediment
- Culture
- If resistant to treatment, pursue further workup

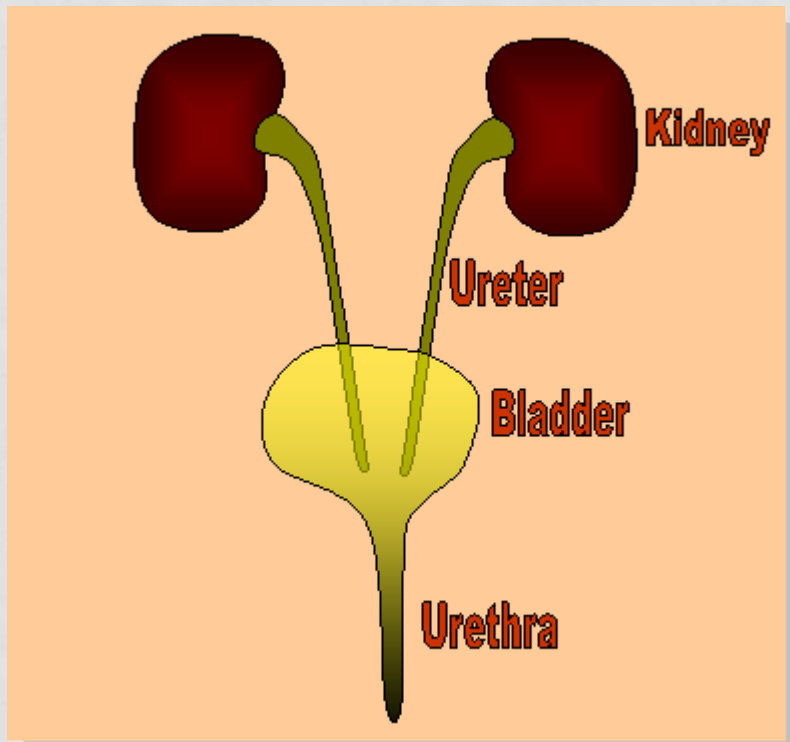
UROLITHS

- **Struvite**
- **Calcium oxalate**
- **Urate**
- **Cystine**

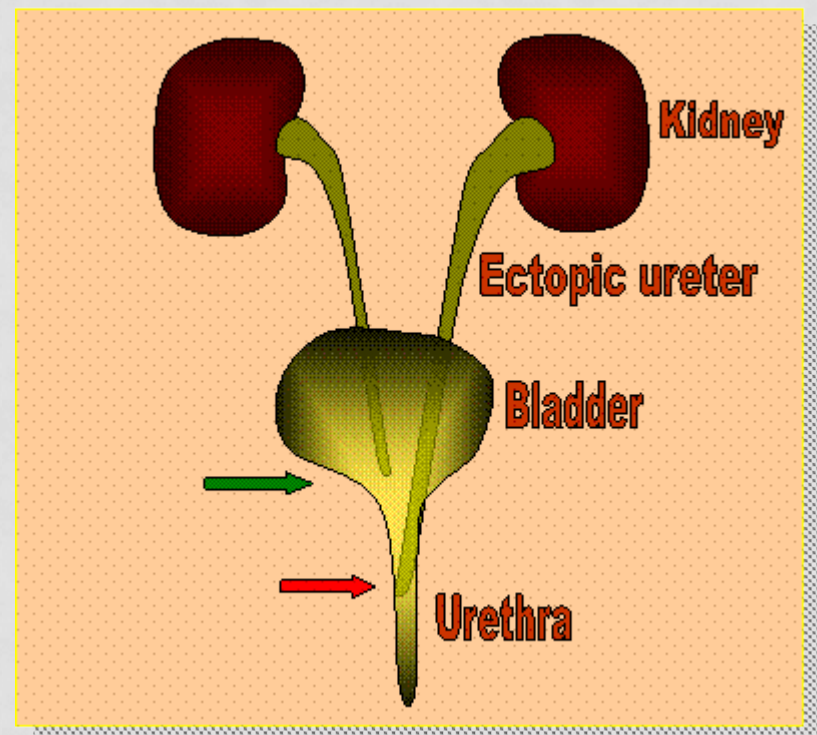


ECTOPIC URETER

Normal



Abnormal



HORMONE-RESPONSIVE URINARY INCONTINENCE

- Physiology not completely understood
- Hormonal changes
 - Can take months to years to be seen
- Physiologic changes after spay may impact
- Often a diagnosis of exclusion
 - Urinalysis and culture
 - Neurologic exam
- Medical management
 - Phenylpropanolamine
 - Estrogen
 - Alternative
 - Acupuncture
 - Soy-based supplements

ENDOCRINE DISORDERS

Cushings

- Two types
 - Pituitary
 - Adrenal
- Tests
 - LDDS – 90% with will test positive
 - ACTH stim
 - Urine cortisol / creatinine ratio

Diabetes

- Body decreases production of insulin
- Excessive glucose in the bloodstream
- Testing
 - Chemistry panel
 - Urinalysis
 - Fructosamine

BASIC MEDICAL WORKUP

- CBC
- Chemistry Panel
- Urinalysis (sterile) – with sediment evaluation
- Urine Culture (sterile)
- Radiograph



QUESTIONS?

